

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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P 041108 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2083

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AIDAC

EO 11652/ GDS

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS- AIRCRAFT FOR SNO

REF: STATE 009132

1. MISSION PRECEEDING TO DISCUSS PROAG WITH TNPD.

HOWEVER, WE CANNOT DETERMINE AMOUNT TO BE OBLIGATED UNTIL
WE HAVE REASONABLY FIRM COST ESTIMATES OF MODEL TO BE FUR-
NISHED. INFORMATION SUPPLIED BY OPS/ W INDICATES COST OF
CIVILIAN VERSION OF UH-1 H IS APPROXIMATELY \$556 THOUSAND
WHEN EQUIPPED AS RECOMMENDED BY MISSION. COST OF COMPAR-
ABLE MILITARY MODEL IS ESTIMATED AT \$410 THOUSAND, A DIFFERENCE
OF NEARLY \$150 THOUSAND. HOWEVER, DELIVERY TIME IS GIVEN AT
APPROXIMATELY 8 MONTHS FOR CIVILIAN MODEL AND 22 MONTHS FOR
MILITARY VERSION.

2. NATURALLY, MISSION WISHES TO MINIMIZE COSTS. ON THE OTHER
HAND, AN EXTENDED DELIVERY PERIOD WOULD CONTRADICT SOME OF THE
MAJOR PURPOSES WE HAD IN PROPOSING THIS ACTION. WE HAVE
ARGUED THAT BY INCREASING THE TNPD AIR FLEET AVAILABLE FOR ANTI-
NARCOTICS SUPPORT WE COULD MORE EFFECTIVELY PRESS THE TNPD TO
BE MORE AGGRESSIVE IN ITS NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES,
PARTICULARLY IN THE NORTH WHERE ACCESS TO MANY LOCATIONS IS
LIMITED. IF WE NOW INFORM RTG THAT DELIVERY CANNOT TAKE PLACE
FOR NEARLY TWO YEARS, OUR ABILITY TO ACHIEVE OUR OBJECTIVE WILL
BE EXTREMELY LIMITED.

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3. IDEALLY, WHAT WE WOULD LIKE IS THE MILITARY MODEL AND PRICE WITH THE LEAD TIME OF THE CIVILIAN VERSION. IN LIGHT OF HIGH PRIORITY ASSIGNED TO NARCOTICS ACTIVITIES, IS THERE NOT A BASIS TO ASK DOD TO SHORTEN THE DELIVERY TIME OF THE MILITARY MODEL? WE WOULD STRONGLY URGE THAT THIS BE DONE IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.

4. IF THERE IS NOT WAY THE DELIVERY TIME OF THE MILITARY UH- IH CAN BE SHORTENED TO SOMETHING COMPARABLE WITH THE COMMERCIAL VERSION, IT WILL PROBABLY BE NECESSARY TO OPT FOR THE COMMERCIAL VERSION EVEN AT THE HIGHER COSTS. THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE TO THIS WHICH MIGHT REPEAT MIGHT BE FEASIBLE WOULD BE TO PURCHASE ONE CIVILIAN MODEL HELICOPTER WITH THE SHORTER LEAD TIME AND PROCURE THE SECOND AIRCRAFT FROM THE MILITARY LINE. THE TNPD MIGHT FIND THIS STAGGERED DELIVERY ACCEPTABLE.

5. WE RECOMMEND EVERYTHING POSSIBLE BE DONE TO SHORTEN DELIVERY TIME OF MILITARY VERSION OF UH-1 H TO MEET REQUIREMENTS DESCRIBED ABOVE. AS SOON AS WASHINGTON CAN PROVIDE FIRM ANSWER ON THIS QUESTION WE CAN PROCEED WITH FINAL NEGOTIATION AND SIGNATURE OF PROAG.

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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